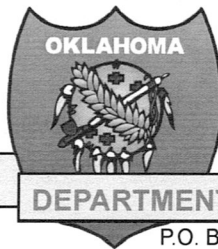


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April 7, 2014

Dr. T. Patrick Waters
3229 Rankin St.
Dallas, TX 75205-1418
214-265-8192 (h)
214-991-2251 (c)

RE: Low-Flow Pipe Cleanout of the Re-regulation Dam on the Lower Mountain Fork River

Dear Mr. Waters,

Thank you for your continued interest and support of the lower Mountain Fork Trout Stream. The Commission has reviewed your letter and associated documents related to the lower Mountain Fork River Foundation's interest in the cleanout of the low flow pipes on the re-regulation dam below Broken Bow reservoir.

The Oklahoma Department of Wildlife Conservation constantly seeks to improve fishing opportunities on the lower Mountain Fork River and throughout the state. ODWC personnel worked closely with Senator Don Nickles in efforts to secure storage in Broken Bow Reservoir for the trout fishery. Projects such as wader washing stations, signage/kiosks, Lost Creek, Evening Hole and numerous habitat enhancement efforts further demonstrate our dedication to this important fishery.

In the past, ODWC expressed interest in the Low-Flow Pipe Project. The City of Broken Bow was issued a FERC license (P-12470) for their hydropower project in September 2012 which must be considered in the analysis of cost/benefit related to the Low-Flow Pipe Project. You are certainly aware that the low-flow pipes would be closed if hydropower turbines are installed in the dam. ODWC staff is aware of the challenges the City of Broken Bow has and must overcome in moving forward with this project. We continue to work closely with the City of Broken Bow, USACE, USFWS, USFS and SWPA to address concerns and develop management strategies that will promote safe recreational opportunities that reduce negative impacts to existing resources. The City of Broken Bow continues to meet the compliance requirements of the FERC License and is moving forward with the project. The City has also explored and pursued opportunities to sell the license. The Adaptive Management Plan was approved by FERC on December 23, 2013. Furthermore, the 90 day and 1-year compliance requirements have all been filed. The City of Broken Bow is currently seeking funding sources for the hydropower project.

In a meeting with Representative Boren's staff, USACE, SWPA, and ODWC in May 2012, the USACE indicated they would require:

- A new temperature/flow study that incorporated the new drought of record (2006).
- A model to show the effect on operations to SWPA and the USACE.

- A more detailed design of the trash racks and approval through USACE Design and Construction.

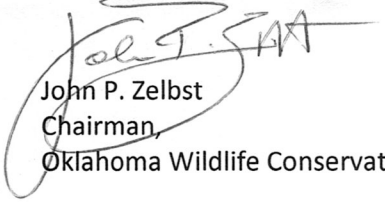
These additional requirements will add further cost to the Low-Flow Pipe Project.

Based on the above information, ODWC regional fisheries staff recommended the Low-Flow Pipe Cleanout Project was a low priority for Sportfish Restoration monies at this time.

ODWC will continue to manage and develop angling opportunities of the lower Mountain Fork River trout stream and adapt our management efforts as new information becomes available. We appreciate the Mountain Fork River Foundation's past and future support of these efforts.

Thank you for your concern and interest in these matters.

Sincerely,



John P. Zelbst
Chairman,

Oklahoma Wildlife Conservation Commission